

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Chair Bernie Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Rosemary Desisles, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski  
**EXCUSED:** Sherry Steenbock

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**\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1513**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:15 p.m.

**2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

**3. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Rosemary Desisles indicated that Item 8 should be changed to "Honor Run Discussion".

**Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve as amended. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Approve or Modify Minutes of December 17, 2013.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve the minutes. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Acceptance of Walmart Donation Check.**

CVSO Jerry Polus stated he was the fortunate recipient of a \$25,000 grant check from Walmart for the veterans' emergency fund. The Walmart Foundation granted to four organizations for their needs. Polus stated that he was thrilled to receive this donation and it goes into the emergency fund which, in addition to the \$10,000 already in the budget for this fund, gives a much greater ability to help veterans with things such as food cards, gas cards and Walmart cards. Polus stated they never give out cash but can possibly help with partial rent or partial utility assistance. This grant will double or triple the number of veterans they will be able to help. Polus continued that around Christmas his office received a \$500 donation and a \$1,000 donation which really helps their efforts a great deal. Chair Bernie Erickson noted that this grant from Walmart is for the veterans' office and not the veterans' recognition subcommittee.

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to accept the \$25,000 grant from Walmart. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Polus also reported on the Veterans Manor that is being built. He stated that he met with the Center for Veterans' Issues in Milwaukee last month. They are planning to break ground on the project this summer or fall for the 50 unit building that will be available for both male and female veterans as well as couples without children. This will provide permanent housing for vets and is not a transitional living facility or homeless shelter. Capital Management from Madison is the funding source along with WHEDA and the Center for Veterans' Issues out of Milwaukee will be the

supporting agency. Polus is excited about this project and will continue to keep the Subcommittee posted on developments as they occur.

**6. Air Force Band of Mid America Performance mid-April/Discussion.**

Polus stated that he spoke with the operations director for the Air Force Band of Mid America and was advised that they have several bands that go out and perform. The band that performed at the Fair several years ago, Star Lifter, is being deployed, however, Polus was advised that a concert band would be available to come to Green Bay and perform some time in April for no charge. The Subcommittee would be responsible for finding a venue for the band to play at and Polus was thinking of the auditorium at East High School. This would be a free concert, but donations would be collected and given to Veterans' Court which has a strong need for funds because they have not received any federal grant funding. Polus stated that he had also checked into having the band perform at the Meyer Theater, but rental would be \$1,250 and therefore having this at a local high school or some other similar venue would be preferable. All veterans' organizations as well as the public would be invited to this performance. West High School was also discussed as a possible venue as it was indicated that the parking is better at West.

**7. Any new discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

Ed Koslowski brought up the issue of signage for the Fair and provided contact information he had for Triangle Distributing as they may be willing to donate some signage. Koslowski is aware from a prior meeting he had with the Fair Board that there seemed to be some question as to if the Fair Board would want or allow banners at the Fair with the Miller logo on it as the Fair serves a different brand of beer. He suggested that the Subcommittee members who will attend the Fair Board meeting feel them out to see how they would feel about Miller supporting the Subcommittee with signage.

Jim Haskins asked Polus if he has compiled the list of POWs to be honored at the Fair and Polus responded that this may need to be thought out some more as there is only one remaining WWII POW in Brown County. Polus indicated that he has asked the Museum in Madison for a list of POWs but has not received anything yet. This was discussed further and it was decided that a decision will be made at next month's meeting as to the direction to go in.

**8. Discussion and possible action regarding suicide prevention and/or interaction.**

Rosemary Desisles thanked Erickson for his efforts in speaking with the Interim Director at the Neville Public Museum with regard to the possibility of holding the Honor Run in conjunction with the WWI exhibit. Unfortunately, Desisles did not feel the run would be able to occur before the exhibit at the Museum ended. However, Desisles said they have not ruled out doing something in conjunction with the Museum and they have also talked to the Bluff Pub about having the event held there. Desisles continued that they had their first meeting of the Greater Green Bay Navy Council several weeks ago and they discussed doing something with the Sea Cadets with the Sea Perch program which is an innovated underwater robotic which could be donated to a school.

Desisles had a list of items that need to be taken care of before the run, but she said her biggest problem at this time is finding people to be on the run committee to help. For this reason, Desisles felt that the run will probably not take place until the October/November timeframe. She noted that a portion of the funds raised by the run will be donated to a local veterans' organization and stressed that the funds will remain local.

Desisles also stated that the first sponsor of the run will be the Coffee News. She has also spoken with Ron Gauthier regarding doing the color guard and he was very interested. Desisles will also

start contacting other veterans' organizations to see if any would be willing to assist her with this project.

9. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus reported on the veterans court and stated they have already had two graduates and there will be three more graduates on January 31. Polus was asked if all in the program were successful and Polus responded that they have had one person dropped from the program but all others are doing well.

10. **Comments from Bill Kloiber and/or Carl Soderburg.**

Chair Erickson noted that Bill Kloiber is no longer working at the City of Green Bay and therefore will not be attending any more Subcommittee meetings. Carl Soderburg was not in attendance.

11. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock & Witkowski.**

-Erickson noted that the WWI exhibit at the Neville Public Museum will be opening in February and will run until the end of May. He urged those in attendance to mention this at their various veterans meetings as this should be an informative and interesting exhibit.

-Desisles did not have anything further to report.

-Haskins reported that he had heard on the NBC Nightly news that Gregory Peck's son, Steven, a Vietnam vet, gave up acting in order to help veterans service centers nationwide. Haskins also reported on a Beret Jackson auction he watched in which a 2014 Camaro was sold for \$700,000 with 100% of these proceeds being donated to Wounded Warriors.

-Koslowski did not have anything to report.

-Pierce did not have anything to report other than the Professor from Gilligan's Island who died recently was a decorated WWII veteran.

-Witkowski shared an article regarding Walmart who will offer a job to veterans who have been discharged recently. He also shared a picture from the newspaper that was taken in 1961 of a group of WWI veterans and noted that these photos are also on record at the Neville Public Museum and may be included in the Museum's war display. Witkowski shared another article with the group about a Hoops for Troops event that was held at Bay Port High School recently and was sponsored by the Student Military Support Club to honor and support active and retired military families. All five military branches were represented at this event. Witkowski ended his report by recognizing the POW/MIA chair.

12. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law. *None.***

13. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:58 p.m. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary